

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 IO-03 AID-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 SPC-01 PRS-01 L-02 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-03

DRC-01 /085 W

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O R 080520Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1956

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

()/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0637

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6072

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, PFOR, AS, CA

SUBJ: AUSTRALIA DECIDES TO END CONTRIBUTION TO CAMBODIAN ESF

REF: A) CANBERRA 5842 B) PHNOM PENH 12173 C) STATE 218132

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH DFA SECRETARY WALLER NOV  
8 ON WHITLAM JAPAN AND CHINA TRIP (SEPTTEL) I RAISED QUESTION OF  
AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARDS CAMBODIA AND ESF. I NOTED THAT AUSTRALIAN  
PRESS IS QUOTING SIHANOUK AS STATING THAT AUSTRALIA HAS STOPPED  
ALL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO CAMBODIA, AND WHITLAM SAID HE  
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HOPED TO SEE SIHANOUK BACK IN PHNOM PENH SOON, AND THAT WHITLAM SAID AUSTRALIA WOULD FOLLOW NEUTRAL POSITION ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE IN UN. ENSUING CONVERSATION BROUGHT OUT STATEMENT

FROM WALLER THAT GOA HAD MADE FIRM DECISION NOT RPT NOT TO CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO ESF BUT WOULD CONTINUE SUPPORT TO CAMBODIA UNDER COLOMBO PLAN AND THAT AUSTRALIAN POLICY ON VOTING ON CAMBODIAN ISSUE LIKELY TO BE WORKED OUT FAVORABLY FROM OUR VIEWPOINT.

2. IN CONVERSATION NOV 8 WITH SIR KEITH WALLER, SECRETARY OF DEPT.

OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ON PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S VISIT TO CHINA (SEPTEL) I BROUGHT UP MATTER OF WHITLAM'S MEETING WITH PRINCE SIHANOUK IN PEKING NOV. 2. MOST SIGNIFICANT ITEM THAT EMERGED WAS THAT WHITLAM HAS MADE FIRM DECISION TO END FURTHER AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAMBODIAN ESF. WALLER SAID WHITLAM MADE DECISION IN TOKYO PRIOR TO VISITING CHINA.

3. I BEGAN CONVERSATION WITH WALLER BY NOTING THAT AUSTRALIAN PRESS NOV 8 IS CARRYING AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS INTERVIEW WITH SIHANOUK IN WHICH THE PRINCE MAKES THREE POINTS WHICH ARE NOT IN U.S. PRESS REPORTS AND ARE NOT IN ACCOUNTS OF MEETING WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOA.

4. I NOTED THAT SIHANOUK QUOTES WHITLAM AS SAYING THAT A) AUSTRALIA HAD STOPPED ALL MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO CAMBODIA, B) THAT WHITLAM EXPRESSED HOPE OF SEEING SIHANOUK BACK IN PHNOM PENH IN NEAR FUTURE TO RE-ESTABLISH CAMBODIAN PEACE IN INDEPENDENCE, AND C) THAT WHITLAM HAD SAID THAT IN THE UN THE AUSTRALIAN DELE-

GATION WOULD ADOPT A COMPLETELY NEUTRAL ATTITUDE ON THE CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE.

5. ON AUSTRALIAN AID TO CAMBODIA WALLER SAID THAT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS CONTINUING UNDER COLOMBO PLAN PROGRAM (ABOUT US\$750,000 PER ANNUM). WHEN I PRESSED HIM ON ESF CONTRIBUTION, WALLER SAID FIRM DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED BY PM TO STOP FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO ESF. I NOTED THAT THIS NEWS WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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TRARY TO STATEMENTS MADE TO ME BY DEPUTY SECRETARY SHANN OCT 24 (REF A) AND I WAS SORRY TO HAVE TO LEARN OF THIS DEVELOPMENT FROM SIHANOUK RATHER THAN GOA. WALLER COMMENTED THAT SHANN EXPRESSED DFA VIEW WHICH WAS RECOMMENDED TO PRIME MINISTER, WHO TURNED IT DOWN.

6. ON WHITLAM'S REPORTED REMARK HE HOPED SEE SIHANOUK

BACK IN PHNOM PENH SOON, WALLER SAID THERE IS NO RECORD OF WHITLAM'S HAVING SAID THIS, ADDING THAT PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IS NOT COMMENTING. I RAISED MY EYEBROWS AT THIS, AND WALLER REUFULLY SHOOK HIS HEAD.

7. ON AUSTRALIAN VOTING INTENTIONS IN UN ON CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION, WALLER SAID AUSTRALIA HAD ABSTAINED OCT 17 ON THE PROCEDURAL QUESTION OF INSCRIBING CAMBODIAN ITEM ON GA AGENDA. I ASKED HIM WHAT WOULD BE AUSTRALIAN VOTE WHEN ITEM CAME UP FOR DEBATE. WALLER SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SURE, THAT ISSUE HAD NOT BEEN FINALLY RESOLVED BUT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD COME OUT SATISFACTORILY FROM OUR VIEWPOINT. I NOTED THAT DURING RECENT VISIT TO CANBERRA BY GKR REP, GEN. SAK SUTSAKHAN, MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL TERRITORIES MORRISON, SPEAKING FOR GOVERNMENT, HAD SAID OCT 19 THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD SUPPORT LON NOL GOVERNMENT AGAINST SIHANOUK IN UN. WALLER ACKNOWLEDGED TRUTH OF MY STATEMENT.

IM RETURNING TO THE ESF, I COMMENTED THAT AUSTRALIAN FAILURE TO CONTRIBUTE

COULD "BLOW THE ESF OUT OF THE WATER", BORROWING TOM ENDER'S APT PHRASE (REF B). WALLER REPLIED THAT AUSTRALIAN POSITION IS NOW FIRM BUT THAT DFA COULD RECEIVE FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS ON THE MATTER. I SAID THAT I WAS SURE GOA WOULD GET THEM FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS.

9. COMMENT: I BELIEVE U.S., CAMBODIA, JAPAN AND ASEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD AT MINIMUM REGISTER STRONG  
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DISAPPOINTMENT WITH GOA OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT, NOT THAT WHITLAM WILL REVERSE HIS POSITION ON ESF BUT IN ORDER TO HOLD HIS FEET TO FIRE AND PREVENT FURTHER EROSION IN AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARD SEA. WHITLAM IS LIKELY TO DEFER TO AFRO-ASIAN NON-ALIGNED OPINION TO EXTENT HE CAN WITHOUT DOING INJURY TO VITAL RELATIONSHIP WITH OLDER AND MORE SUBSTANTIAL FRIENDS. I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN MATTER UP WITH JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HERE AND WILL BE SEEING INDONESIAN FONMIN ADAM MALIK THIS AFTERNOON.  
GREEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** A) CANBERRA 5842 B) PHNOM PENH 12173  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AUSTRALIA DECIDES TO END CONTRIBUTION TO CAMBODIAN ESF  
**TAGS:** EFIN, EAID, PFOR, AS, CA, ESF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005